

From: Brian 'Bex' Huff
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:48pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I personally believe that the antitrust settlement currently being proposed is woefully inadequate. If ever there was a monopoly that abused its power to crush competition and illegally leverage itself to move into other markets, it is Microsoft.

And now, to add insult to injury, they suggest as 'punnishment' that they be forced to give billions of dollars worth of software to schools. The education market has always been Apple's core market, and this decision will allow them to get a huge stranglehold onto that market as well.

More likely than not, they will arrange a draconian lease arrangement and ensure that the schools will be forced to upgrade within 3 years. Even if the lease has no such clause, they will probably have to upgrade in that time frame anyway in order to be able to run the latest software.

This 'punnishment' will simply cost the schools, the children, the taxpayers, and the government more money, it will seriously hurt Apple computers (Microsoft's only real competitor), it will enable them to get a stranglehold into a new market, and not in any way cost Microsoft a dime.

THE PROPOSED MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT MUST BE REJECTED.

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